



# ***Iowa CREP News***

## ***for Stakeholder Organizations & Agencies of the Iowa Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program***

Issue #1

February 1, 2007

BETTER AWARENESS THROUGH electronic communication is the goal of Iowa CREP management and staff with this introductory issue of Iowa CREP News. Stakeholder organizations will receive periodic electronic CREP updates to keep you informed about program accomplishments, challenges, and opportunities for “hands-on” involvement.

EIGHT (8) CREP WETLAND SITES CONSTRUCTED during the summer (2006) are located in Emmet, Dickinson, Boone, Mitchell, Cerro Gordo, and Calhoun Counties. These 8 sites in total consist of 98 acres of wetland pool and 424 acres of easement area including buffer, and will remove nitrate an estimated 6950 tons of nitrate over their design life from 13,899 acres of contributing watershed area.

THE CREP DISPLAY AND WETLAND AT THE 2006 IOWA STATE FAIR was the feature exhibit of the Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship booth in the Agriculture Building. The display included the construction of an actual wetland on the floor of the building, complete with wetland plant materials, wetland insects and tadpoles, with flowing water entering from a tile line and exiting the wetland outlet structure. Because of the popularity of the Agriculture Building and the butter cow across the isle from the CREP wetland, many of the nearly 1 million visitors to the Iowa State Fair this year viewed the display and learned more about Iowa’s efforts through CREP to reduce nitrates to protect Iowa drinking water supplies as well as address hypoxia in the Gulf of Mexico. The CREP wetland exhibit received the “blue ribbon” award for displays in the building.

THE 2006 NATIONAL CREP FORUM was held in Lincoln, Neb. August 14-17 and attended by Iowa CREP staff. Of the authorized 37 CREPs from 29 states, it is apparent that the Iowa CREP is the most strategically targeted and quantifiable pollutant reduction oriented CREP in the nation. Discussions are underway between Iowa and national USDA personnel about the potential to expand the nitrate-removal wetland technology of the Iowa CREP to other states across the corn-belt.

A NARRATED CREP VIDEO is under production through Extension Communications and Marketing Services of Iowa State University. Video footage has been shot of CREP wetlands, cropped landscape watersheds draining to the wetlands, wetland and buffer plants, and receiving watercourses. Aerial video of CREP watersheds and wetlands was taken utilizing WHO-TV Chopper 13. The video footage will be supplemented by narration and initially edited into two products. One is an approximately 5 minute narrated video for uses such as with landowners, local field office personnel, contractors, and public meeting presentations concerning the Iowa CREP. The other will be a 30-second continuous narrated loop for use in fair displays, poster sessions, and conferences, as well as public service announcement for television broadcast.

REGULATORY WOES EASE SLIGHTLY with the approval of Regional Permit #34 developed by the Rock Island US Army Corps of Engineers. The COE issued the regional permit in September and the first approved projects authorized under the permit have now been bid-let for construction.

THE U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS recently published in the Federal Register its proposal to reissue nationwide permits (NWP) under the clean water act. Included among those for re-issuance is NWP #27. The management and staff of the Iowa CREP support reissuing the NWP as it was revised and believe that proposed changes could benefit the program.

DSC ENTERS CONTRACT with the Iowa Drainage District Association (IDDA) for landowner contact services and other related interactions as necessary to promote the construction of wetlands within CREP. Bill Fitzgerald and Kevin Griggs joined the Iowa CREP team in the summer 06' and will continue with IDDA along with Charlie Kiepe.

#### CREP PHOTO GALLERY:



Dallas County CREP wetland completed December 05', photo Summer 06'



2006 Iowa State Fair display

CREP NEWS FEEDBACK WELCOME! Please communicate your thoughts regarding CREP News or any CREP happenings contained within to [randy.cooney@idals.state.ia.us](mailto:randy.cooney@idals.state.ia.us).